

we owe the United Nations, but we will simply not turn the other cheek as the Sudans and the Lybias of this world declare the United States unfit to serve on the Human Rights Commission of the United Nations.

One important provision of our legislation calls on our representative at the U.N. to insist that no nation may serve on the U.N. Human Rights Commission that does not allow on its territory international human rights monitors. When this provision prevails, the Cubas and the Chinas and the Sudans and the Lybias of this world will have no opportunity to serve on the Human Rights Commission.

The Hyde-Lantos amendment is a reasonable response to an outrage that was perpetrated in Geneva. I urge all of my colleagues to support it.

Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HYDE. Mr. Chairman, with great pleasure, I yield 1 minute to the distinguished gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN).

(Mr. GILMAN asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman for yielding me time.

Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of the Hyde-Lantos-Sweeney amendment. The failure of the U.N. to reelect our Nation to the Human Rights Commission is outrageous. Our Nation has been a member of the commission since 1946. Our Nation is being penalized obviously for speaking out for human rights abuses.

This commission has become a refuge for despots and scoundrels, indicative of our Nation's inattention to this problem for the past 8 years, regretably allowing powerful nations such as China to dominate the commission.

The Human Rights Commission has become a closely knit group of human rights abusers. The Chinese, Cuban, Libyan, and Syrian commission members have incarcerated thousands of political prisoners. It is hypocritical that Sudan, which practices slavery, is also a commission member.

Denying our Nation membership while allowing those despotic governments to become members underscores that we have not effectively challenged those dictatorships.

This is truly a sad day for democracy, for the rule of law, and for the United States. Accordingly, I strongly urge support for the Hyde-Lantos-Sweeney amendment.

Ms. MCKINNEY. Mr. Chairman, I am very pleased to yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. MALONEY).

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding me this time and for her leadership.

Mr. Chairman, I rise today in strong opposition to the Hyde-Lantos-Sweeney amendment, which withholds U.S. payments to the United Nations in retaliation for the removal of the U.S. from the Human Rights Commission.

Although I share the displeasure of the chair and ranking member of the Committee on International Relations on the loss of the United States' seat, payment of arrears to the U.N. should not be jeopardized in retribution.

This action would be unfairly punitive. The United Nations does not nominate nor elect members to the commission. The 54 members of the U.N. Economic and Social Council elect members of the commission in a secret ballot. Payment of our long-standing debt to the U.N. should not be jeopardized, particularly at a time when the United Nations has met nearly every condition of the Helms-Biden agreement.

A deal is a deal. The U.S. agreed to pay nearly \$1 billion in debt to the U.N. if the U.N. met certain conditions. The United Nations has kept their end of the deal.

We demanded that the U.N. reduce the amount the U.S. pays to the U.N. regular budget, and the U.N. did. We demanded that they reduce the amount the U.S. pays to the U.N. peacekeeping budget, and the U.N. did. We demanded they form an Office of Inspector General, and they did. We demanded they maintain a zero growth budget, and they did. We demanded that they did not charge us interest on the delinquent bills, and they have not charged interest.

Now, after the United Nations has met all of our demands and it is our time to honor our commitment, we have new demands.

It is not even logical. The United Nations did not remove the United States from the Human Rights Commission. That action was by the 54 member states of the U.N. Economic and Social Council. It is not fair. To penalize the U.N. for the actions of individual member states violates every sense of fair play. It is like failing the whole class for the actions of one child.

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My opponents here today will say that the U.S. deserves a seat on the commission, and it does. But the U.N. cannot put us back on the commission any more than they could prevent us from being taken off. So why penalize the U.N.?

Also, it is not productive. Requiring new conditions for payment of a long-standing debt when a deal has already been made will not only not win us back a seat, but could very well jeopardize our relations with the very nations who we need to vote in favor of us to put us back on the commission.

Secretary of State Colin Powell does not want additional conditions. President Bush does not want additional conditions. These are the people charged with implementing our Nation's foreign policy. Just yesterday, the President spokesperson said, and I quote, "The whole question of arrears and payment to the United Nations, that is separate and apart from this current matter."

The Atlanta Constitution wrote a long statement, but I will just quote a short part: "Unfortunately, Members of the House are threatening to 'get back' by withholding U.N. dues. Seeking retribution against the world body is the wrong reaction from Congress or the administration. After all, it wasn't just U.S. detractors who participated in the coup, but also some of our allies: France, Sweden and Austria, who didn't cast enough votes to help the U.S. retain a seat."

The Los Angeles Times wrote on May 10, and I quote: "Members of the House, angry that the United States last night lost its seat on the U.N. Human Rights Commission, want to withhold a further planned U.N. payment of \$244 million unless the seat is restored next year. It's hard to conceive of anything more foolish than making payment of a legitimate debt conditional on an action by a subsidiary U.N. body that the U.N. doesn't even control."

The New York Times wrote on May 5: "Such a response would ignore the underlying issues that caused the revolt and only worsen American relations with the United Nations. Payment of Washington's back dues is vital to maintaining American influence in the U.N."

And the San Francisco Chronicle's headline today says, "U.S. Should Pay Its Dues."

It sort of reminds me of the old book, everything I learned in kindergarten is all I need to conduct my life in a reasonable way. We made a deal. They have held up to their end of the deal. It is wrong for us to turn around and change the rules.

Mr. Chairman, I stand here in support of the Bush administration urging that we live up to our end of the commitment and pay our dues at the United Nations. I oppose the Hyde-Lantos amendment and other conditions put on this requirement that we have agreed to.

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume to respond to the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. MALONEY), and I would like to respond to some of these editorials.

Some of us do not accept the sanctity of our Western European friends. They would stand on firmer moral ground if they would stand with the United States in our dealings with Iran or Iraq or Syria or other totalitarian states. Actions have consequences. The United States was fully prepared to make these payments, but the situation has changed with encouragement on the part of some of our "friends." There is great glee that the United States was booted off the U.N. Human Rights Commission where unquestionably we were the most important, most valuable, most articulate, and most principal member for over half a century.

And while I am very pleased to see my friend defending the Bush administration in this instance, I do not. I believe the Bush administration is dead wrong in saying that we should turn